

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 /070 W

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R 110730Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3299

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

KFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1944

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 5014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SW, AG, FR, DA, GW

SUBJECT: TRAVELS OF SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER

REF: STOCKHOLM 468

1. SWEDEN'S MUCH TRAVELED PRIME MINISTER, OLOF PALME, WHO HAS JUST COMPLETED TRIPS TO CANADA AND PORTUGAL (REFTEL) WILL BE OFF AGAIN NOV 11 FOR 5-DAY VISIT TO ALGERIA, TO BE FOLLOWED BY MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING (AND PERHAPS PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AS WELL) IN PARIS, GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IN BONN, AND DANISH PRIME MINISTER HARTLING IN COPENHAGEN.

2. THE VISIT TO ALGIERS WILL INVOLVE AN 11-MEMBER DELEGATION, INCLUDING (IN ADDITION TO PALME), MINISTER W/O
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PORTFOLIO LIDBOM, UNDER MINISTER OF FINANCE PIERRE WINDER,

AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE MFA AXEL EDELSTAM (BROTHER OF SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO ALGIERS HARALD EDELSTAM). ACCORDING TO PALME AIDE PIERRE SCHORI (WHO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE DELEGATION), THE EMPHASIS IN THE ALGERIAN TRIP WILL BE ECONOMIC, WITH A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING THE VISIT, INCLUDING ONE CREATING A JOINT SWEDISH-ALGERIAN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD MEET ON A YEARLY BASIS. SCHORI TOLD POLCOUNSELOR THAT A NUMBER OF SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVES FROM VOLVO AND THE LABOR ORGANIZATION CONSTRUCTION FIRM (BPA) WILL ALSO BE IN ALGERIA TO DISCUSS PROJECTS IN THAT COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH SCHORI DID NOT SAY SO, SWEDISH INTEREST IN CULTIVATING GOOD RELATIONS WITH AN IMPORTANT OIL PRODUCER CERTAINLY IS A MAJOR PURPOSE OF VISIT.

3. ON THE RETURN TRIP FROM ALGERIA, PALME IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. IN ADDITION, THE SWEDES HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE GOV THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC. SCHORI SAID A FEW MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION TO ALGERIA, INCLUDING MINISTER LIDBOM, WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARIS TALKS.

4. ON NOV 21 PALME WILL BE OFF TO BONN, FOR ONE DAY OF TALKS WITH GERMAN LEADERS, INCLUDING CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED THE NEXT DAY BY A VISIT TO COPENHAGEN TO MEET WITH DANISH PRIME MINISTER HARTLING. SCHORI INFORMED POLCOUNS THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF BONN VISIT IS FOR PALME TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH SCHMIDT, WHOM HE KNOWS ONLY SLIGHTLY, SINCE, ACCORDING TO SCHORI, SCHMIDT WAS "ALWAYS IN BACKGROUND" ON PREVIOUS PALME MEETINGS WITH BRANDT. WITH REGARD TO COPENHAGEN VISIT, MAIN EMPHASIS WILL BE ON VIGGEN AND PROPOSED TUNNEL-BRIDGE PROJECT BETWEEN SWEDEN AND DENMARK. PALME WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON GERMAN AND DANISH TRIPS BY AIDE KJELL LARSSON.

5. COMMENT: THE NEW ROUND OF VISITS TO LEADING EUROPEAN FIGURES OBVIOUSLY ACCORDS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONCEPTION OF HIS ROLE AS SPOKESMAN OF SMALLER EUROPEAN POWERS THAT EMBASSY HAS REPORTED EARLIER (STOCKHOLM 4491). AND, AS IN THE CASE OF SWEDISH INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN IEP, IT ALSO

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REFLECTS WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE A GROWING SWEDISH CONCERN NOT TO BE TOO FAR OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN MAINSTREAM AT A TIME CRUCIAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE OCCURRING IN THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERES. STRAUSS-HUPE

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